

feet & had so froze to death. I have seen Ice in the Chesepake, Potomac & James River four feet in thickness. The Lord deliver me from such another journey. It has shocked my health & perhaps my Constitution—irreparably, I apprehend.

I write this, not so much to speak of myself as to do what I think will be a public benefit—that is, to urge you to declare yourself a candidate for Congress. I think I am not mistaken in your views—if I am not, our section of Country needs you here. Dr Hall²⁴ wishes, nay, is anxious to return here yet—& to live here, all his life. a perfect incubus upon the body politick. He is amusing—he tries every (2) plan he can invent to extract from me my views upon the Subject: he has tried through others, to draw me out into a declaration that I will not be in his way, but will favour his pretensions. Two days ago, he informed me that Marshal Dickinson had written him that you was certainly no candidate, nor would be—it pleased him much, and then he strove to draw out of me whether any body else would. He fears his last years annunciation, and is striving to manage it so, as to keep down all others—& then say, the people wish & he must serve them. But he has been so much with Randolph & Macon,²⁵ & has fancied that he is really the one or the other & that his only chance for immortality, is, that he oppose every thing useful to the Country. He is indeed the veriest Ishmaelite in Congress—against every thing except his foolish theory, formed by a congeries of absurdities which he hugs to death in the most ridiculous manner. Here are some specimens. Gen^l Speight²⁶ moved to throw up fortifications near Ocracoke to protect our waters in times of war—Dr Hall scouted the idea & aided to defeat it. Gen^l Speight moved to still further secure the commerce of Pamptico Sound by placing a light upon Brant Island Shoal—Dr Hall hooted at it—Gen^l Speight moved to make the operations at the Swash effectual, by farther appropriations, if necessary—it was disgusting to hear the foolish slang uttered by Dr Hall representing the Country so interested in that work. Gen^l Speight applied to Hall to go with him to the department to obtain an order for the removal of the Swash Machine to Washg (3) now that she cannot operate at the Swash & remove the Sand Shoal below our Town—he refused to go, said he was opposed to all the System & added by God Sir if she is thus employed, I

²⁴For Thomas H. Hall see 1812, n. 21. Hall was an unshakable Jacksonian who followed the administration's policy of opposing internal improvements. He easily defeated his anti-Jackson opponents in the congressional election of 1831. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 13, 30, 43, 65, 67.

²⁵This refers to John Randolph and Nathaniel Macon. See 1803, n. 95, and 1803, n. 91 respectively.

²⁶For Jesse Speight see 1818, n. 8.